TO

W. Smith, Esq. M.P.

CHAIRMAN of the Meeting in Support of the People of POLAND, at the LONDON TAVERN.

SIR,

THE intention expressed in the Public Papers of entering into a subscription to succour the People of Poland, now suffering under the calamities of war induces me to suggest some circumstances of great importance to the consideration of the meeting. Your money, whatever sum it may amount to, will be of no service to them; so you may as well keep it in your pockets; for there is something radically wrong in the New Constitution of the Government of Poland, established by the Revolution, on the 3d of May 1791. This appeared to me when their Constitution was first printed here under Mr. Bukaty's inspection. I communicated my thoughts upon it in August last to the National Assembly of France, and to the Leading People in Holland, that it was only a mock Revolution. The manner of carrying on this pretended Reformation in Poland is very different from what it was in France: hence Mr. Edmund Burke became its patron and tutelar saint. In France we saw the Rights of Man advancing from the People to the King; in Poland they proceeded, or rather seemed to proceed, in a contrary direction, from the King to the People; a circumstance from which have necessarily followed their want of credit and their present calamities. In Poland the mock Revolution increases the King's prerogatives and powers; in France the Revolution limits the prerogative. Hence arises the internal opposition, in the Polish Ukraine, against the succession to the Throne; against the Constitution of May 1791; against the privileges granted to the Throne; against the present

preſent Diet; againſt the diminution of the privileges of the Nobles; and for the maintenance of antient Liberty, and the old Republican Government. M. Felix Potocki, Count Branicki, Count Rzewnſky, and ſeveral other Counſellors, have already detected the impoſition. What could poſſeſs Staniſlaus Auguſtus Poniatowſky to turn the Republic of Poland into an Hereditary Monarchy? And who, in this enlightened age, except Spaniſh Politicians, could have dictated to the Polanders to make to themſelves another King of the Elector of Saxony, and to be tied down afterwards to his daughter, Mary-Auguſta Nepomucena, as the *Infanta* Queen of Poland? This ſubverſion of the old Republican Government, and the introduction of a Saxon Monarchy, are ſufficient cauſes for their internal diſcontents. France proſecutes more fully the ſpirit of Reformation; whilſt the preſent Diet of Poland have ſtopped ſhort in the middle of their career. For this reaſon Edmund Burke approves the preſent conſtitution of Poland, with a view to have the rotten model of it impoſed by foreign forces, through the means of La Fayette, upon the people of France.

Their want of caſh and credit ariſes alſo from their own ill-concerted meaſures. The Dutch were too wiſe and too well informed to advance the ſum of 750,000l. ſterling on a loan to the King of Poland, for the ſecurity of which, the Staroſties were to be mortgaged; and, if they could raiſe a loan to that amount in Spain or Portugal, it would be of no ſort of ſervice to their cauſe. There has been ſomething not ſincere in the Poliſh Revolution, a ſort of falſe pretence in favour of Liberty, which is now too apparent, and they themſelves are ſuffering the fatal conſequences of the deception. The Jews, you muſt be well acquainted, are above One Million in number in Poland. Can you declare to this meeting what advantages have already been granted to them, by the New Conſtitution, or whether any promiſes of being advanced to an immediate participation of Citizenſhip are aſſured to them, by the preſent Diet? The Aſſembly of France, you know, has prudently admitted the Nation to the equal rights of Citizens. The Jews in France were ſoon penetrated with admiration and reſpect, on beholding the multiplied acts of Juſtice, which proceeded from that Aſſembly; and they depoſited in the midſt of them, the ſolemn

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teſtimony of their patriotiſm and devotedneſs; their ſolemn oath to ſacrifice, in every inſtance, *their lives and fortunes* for the public good, for the glory of the Nation and of the King. One ſole object rules, and animates all their thoughts, the good of their country, and a deſire of dedicating to it all their ſtrength. In that reſpect, they will not yield to any inhabitants of France; they will diſpute the palm with all the citizens for zeal, courage, and patriotiſm. Theſe are the very words and ſentiments of the Addreſs, preſented to the National Aſſembly, from the Jews reſiding at Paris, by J. Goldſchmit their Preſident, and Abraham Lopez Lagouna, Vice Preſident; Monſ. Wiel, J. Benjamin, and J. Fernandez, Electors of Iſrael; and Mordecai Levi, Lazarus Jacob, Trenelle Pere, Mordecai Elias, Joſeph Pereyra Brandon, and M. del Campo, their Deputies. And I truſt that theſe Preſidents, Electors, and Deputies, have not ſeen vain and fooliſh things for the Jews, by joining themſelves to the Aſſembly, in the cauſe of the Nation's Liberty. But what encouragement does the preſent Diet hold out to the Poliſh Jews, which they did not enjoy under the Old Republican Government? None at all. Is it natural then to ſuppoſe that their monied brethren and friends in England, France, and Holland, will be very ready to ſubſcribe voluntarily to the ſupport of the New Conſtitution of Poland, where the equal Rights of Citizens are ſtill withheld from them?

I have now ſhortly hinted at the cauſes of their internal troubles in Poland, their calamity of war, and their want of credit at the foreign Exchanges. It is themſelves alone they have to blame, and their New Conſtitution muſt be altered before they can hope for Peace. I ſincerely wiſh them well; the preſent King of Poland is my own couſin, and I have many more relations there; and it would give me great happineſs to ſee him act in ſupport of his beſt intereſts:—but your Subſcription, I again repeat it, can be of no ſervice, if he does not follow the advice of wiſer Counſellors.

I am Sir, your humble Servant,

Felon-ſide Newgate Priſon, 2d Aug. 1792. G. GORDON.

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